Place of Urdu in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1076. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the place of Urdu in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as it is a second or Third language in most of the States and therefore liable to be neglected by the State authorities;

(b) what special steps have been taken to see that Urdu is given its due place in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(c) whether any literature and books have been prepared for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) As per Article 350A of the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of every State and of every local authority to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mothertongue at primary stage of education for children belonging to linguistic minority group. States can seek Central Assistance under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for appropriate activities in pursuance of the above provision.

(b) State Governments have been requested to give due priority to opening of Urdu medium Elementary Schools to the extent necessary as per State norms, from the assistance sanctioned under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

(c) and (d) Textbooks and other material for Elementary Schools are developed by State agencies in languages spoken in respective States.

Autonomy to professional institutions

1077. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had come out with a detailed policy on entrance tests for admission to the technical courses in the professional institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said policy was aimed at restoring autonomy to the institutions; and

(d) what are the other steps Government are considering to give autonomy to the educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has revised its policy for admission for technical and professional courses. According to the new policy, admissions in undergraduate programmes in all the educational institutions like National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), National Institute of Forge and Foundry Technology (NIFFT), Ranchi, School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi and other Institutes of Central Government, as specified will be made through All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Respecting the autonomy of educational institutions, the Central/Deemed Universities have been given the option of either to participate in the above examination or conduct their own entrance examination and admit students in a fair and transparent manner.

A Similar decision has been taken in regard to common entrance examinations for Admission to Master of Business Administration (MBA)/ Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) or its equivalent programmes. As per the decision all specified Central institutions admitting students on all-India basis will have to opt for one of the five examinations as specified. All the Central/Deemed Universities will have the option to participate in these tests or conduct their own entrance examination and admit students in a fair and transparent manner.

(d) The Government of India is fully committed to restore the autonomy of all the educational institutions in the country. All the Central Government Educational Institutions have been allowed to get the donations/grants without routing through the Bharat Shikasha Kosh. The power to decide on the fee structure has been restored to the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). All Central/States/Deemed Universities have been allowed to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with foreign University without seeking prior approval of the Central/States Governments and Universities Grants Commission (UGC). A Committee of the Central Advisory Board on Education has been set up under the Chairmanship of

Shri Kanti Biswas, Education Minister, West Bengal to suggest measures for enhancing the autonomy of higher education institutions. The changes/ amendments effected to the Memorandums of Association (MoA) of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology, Longowal have been reversed and their autonomy restored.

DTH operation through foreign owned satellites

1078. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on use of foreign owned satellites for beaming down programme directly for DTH operations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such permission would be given if safeguards like traffic monitoring and inspections of equipments are also built in the foreign satellite system to be hired by the DTH operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Accessibility to sex through DTH

†1079. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that sex would be easily accessible in the houses through DTH and at some places it is happening;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Concerns have been expressed in various quarters about the possible misuse of DTH service for viewing pornographic channels;.

(b) and (c) This issue was examined in the month of August, 2004. The detailed enquiries revealed that some pornographic channels were available

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.